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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY	Rumania	DATE DISTR.	18 September 1952

SUBJECT   Soviet Troops in the Banat

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1. The General Staff of the Soviet Army in Rumania has its headquarters
at Craiova, where the Rumanian headquarters are. The Army Corps
commands are at Arad and Timisoara. Troops are billeted in the whole
of the Banat area as far as Deta, west to Jimbolia, and beyond Arad
as far as Santana. There are no Soviet troops north of Santana.

2. At Arad, large Soviet tank units are concentrated in the southeastern
part of the town (Aradul-Nou, Arad-Cetate and Sanicolaul-Mic). A
Soviet cultural center and an officers' canteen are located at 17,
Bulevardul Armata Poporului in the former premises of the Chamber of
Commerce. A group of Soviet artists performs at the cultural center
every evening. Rumanian and Hungarian songs are included in the
program to create a friendly atmosphere. Rumanian citizens are admitted
and on Sundays, small groups of soldiers from surrounding villages,
probably those who had distinguished themselves, are entertained.
The whole town has a military aspect, and it is said that the troops
there could be mobilized in three hours.

3. Timisoara has a similar appearance. An even larger number of Soviet
troops than at Arad is billeted there, mostly in the Elisabet, Cetate-
Mehala and Santandrei quarters.

4. Ten-day maneuvers took place in September 1951, in an area south-
west of Timisoara to southwest of Arad. The Soviet and Rumanian Armies,
and two or three regiments made up of Hungarian and Czech units as an
experiment in cooperation, participated in the maneuvers. The Hungarian
and Czech troops entered Rumania near Valea Lui Mihai and joined the
Soviet Army near Santana and Arad. Almost all traffic, freight as well
as passengers, was interrupted during the maneuvers and the ten days of

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preparation preceding them. Arad was served by two trains daily from Timisoara, an express from Bucharest every evening, and one train daily to Oradea.

5. The exercise was based on the following theme; The Serbian Army was supposed to have attacked the Rumanian frontier at Jimbolia, and the united Soviet and Rumanian troops were to concentrate on the defense of the Lugos-Faget-Mures Valley line, where the Serbs were advancing in two columns. One column was advancing north from Jimbolia towards the Arad-Mures Valley, and the other towards Samora, Moravita and Caransebes. The defenders succeeded in checking the advance of the enemy south of Arad, and driving him back to Timisoara, where the maneuvers wound up on the tenth day with a parade of all participating troops. During the maneuvers the General Staff was stationed in the Clerical Seminary at Arad.

6. Canteen trucks from the Ministry of Trade accompanied the troops, selling delicacies at nominal prices.

7. The Soviet troops consisted of very young soldiers, well equipped and cared for.

8. The morale and fighting spirit of the Rumanian soldiers is very low, even lower than in the last war.

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